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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/965,932	09/28/2001	Richard Foltak	M-11646 US	3289
33031	7590	04/06/2006	EXAMINER	
CAMPBELL STEPHENSON ASCOLESE, LLP 4807 SPICEWOOD SPRINGS RD. BLDG. 4, SUITE 201 AUSTIN, TX 78759			NEURAUTER, GEORGE C	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2143	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/965,932	FOLTAK ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	George C. Neurauter, Jr.	2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4,6-31 and 33-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,6-25,28-31 and 33-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 26 and 27 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-4, 6-31, and 33-70 are currently presented and have been examined.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 18 January 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that Hundscheidt does not disclose that the access server is operated by a network service provider. Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraph 0024).

The Applicant also argues that the offload server as taught within Hundscheidt does not include the session identifier in a first request sent to an AAA module or the RADIUS server as disclosed in Hundscheidt since the MSC appears to be unable to communicate with the RADIUS server. Hundscheidt does disclose the limitations as claimed (paragraph 0039, 0040, and 0049) (see also paragraphs 0022, 0032, and 0043)

The Applicant also argues that Hundscheidt does not teach wherein the offload server assigns the session identifier value if one is not provided. As shown previously in the disclosures of Hundscheidt, the offload server may be integrated with at least the functionality of an access server and, as shown in

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"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt (paragraphs 0017-0018), the access server assigns this value.

The Applicant also argues that Hundscheidt does not teach wherein the offload server provides at least a plurality of services to the network access server. Again, Hundscheidt discloses wherein the offload server may be integrated with an access server. Hundscheidt does disclose wherein the offload server provides at least a plurality of services to the network access server (paragraphs 0002 and 0017).

Therefore, the presently presented claims are not in condition for allowance and are subject to the rejections as previously shown by the Examiner and the Examiner's response to the Applicant's arguments as shown in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for

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establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12-17, 19-21, 23-24, 26-28, 30, 33-37, 39-44, 46, 48, 51-55, 57-62, and 64-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Request for Comments 2866: RADIUS Accounting" ("RFC 2866") in view of European Patent Application Publication EP 1 014 619 A1 to Hundscheidt et al.

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Regarding claim 1, "RFC 2866" discloses a method for maintaining a common session identifier in a network, comprising:

associating a session identifier ("Acct-Session ID") with a user, wherein the session identifier is associated with the user by a network access server, and the network access server is configured to include the session identifier in a first request sent to an AAA module (section 4.1 "Accounting-Request", specifically "Accounting-Request packets are sent from a client (typically a Network Access Server...) to a RADIUS accounting server and convey information used to provide accounting for service provided to a user...; pages 15-16, section 5.5, "Acct-Session-Id", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-Id").

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose providing the session identifier to an off-load server, wherein an offload server is configured to establish a network connection between communication equipment operated by the user and a server operated by a network service provider, and the off-load server is configured to include the session identifier in a second request sent to the AAA module, however, Hundscheidt does disclose these limitations (the "MSC" being the offload server) (paragraphs 0012, 0017, 0028, 0032, 0039, 0040, and 0049)

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of these references since Hundscheidt discloses that using an offload server to establish a network connection between communication equipment operated by the user and a server operated by a network service provider enables the user to access the network service provider from a separate network (paragraphs 0012 and 0032). In view of these specific advantages and that the references are directed using access servers and accounting servers to establish and account for network connections, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine these references and would have considered them to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor, which would lead one of ordinary skill to reasonably expect a successful combination of the teachings.

Regarding claim 3, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein providing the session identifier further comprises providing the session identifier in a session setup request ("Accounting Request" or "Accounting Start"), however, "RFC 2866" does disclose providing the session identifier in a session setup request (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is

configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...").

Hundscheidt discloses wherein providing the session identifier further comprises providing the session identifier in a session setup request (paragraph 0017).

Claim 3 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 3.

Regarding claim 6, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising associating a start record with the session identifier. (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...")

Regarding claim 7, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 6.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising providing the start record to an AAA module ("RADIUS Accounting server"). (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...and will send that to the RADIUS Accounting server...")

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Regarding claim 8, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising associating a stop record with the session identifier. (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting Stop packet...")

Regarding claim 9, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 8.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising providing the stop record to an AAA module. (page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting Stop packet...It will send [the packet] to the RADIUS Accounting server...")

Regarding claim 10, "RFC 2866" discloses a method for maintaining a common session identifier in a network, comprising wherein the access server is configured to perform pre-authentication processing for a user (section 4.1 "Accounting-Request", specifically "Accounting-Request packets are sent from a client (typically a Network Access Server...)...and convey information used to provide accounting for service provided to a user...")

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose determining whether a session identifier value is provided by an access server to an

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off-load server, and the off-load server is configured to establish a network connection between communication equipment operated by the user and a server operated by a network service provider and assigning, if the session identifier value is not provided by the access server to the off-load server, the session identifier value to the user, wherein the assigning is performed by the off-load server, however, Hundscheidt does disclose these limitations (paragraphs 0017, 0020, 0028, and 0032)

Claim 10 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 10.

Regarding claim 12, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 10.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein determining whether the session identifier value is provided by the access server further comprises determining whether the session identifier value is contained within a non-required parameter string provided by the access server, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraphs 0017 and 0018)

Claim 12 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 12.

Regarding claim 13, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 10.

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"RFC 2866" discloses associating a start record with the session identifier (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...") ..

Regarding claim 14, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 13.

"RFC 2866" discloses providing the start record to a software module that provides for performing accounting processing (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...and will send that to the RADIUS Accounting server...").

Regarding claim 15, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 10.

"RFC 2866" discloses associating a stop record with the session identifier (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting Stop packet...").

Regarding claim 16, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 15.

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"RFC 2866" discloses providing the stop record to a software module that provides for performing accounting processing (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting Stop packet...It will send [the packet] to the RADIUS Accounting server...")

Regarding claim 17, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 10.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose providing the session identifier from the access server to an off-load server, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraphs 0012, 0017, 0028 and 0032).

Claim 17 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 17.

Regarding claim 19, "RFC 2866" discloses a system, comprising:

a network access server, wherein the network access server is configured to generate a session identifier (section 4.1 "Accounting-Request", specifically "Accounting-Request packets are sent from a client (typically a Network Access Server...)...and convey information used to provide accounting for service provided to a user...; pages 15-16, section 5.5,

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"Acct-Session-Id", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-Id") .

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose the network access server being further configured to provide the session identifier to an off load server, wherein a off-load server is configured to establish a network connection between communication equipment operated by a user and a server operated by a network service provider, and both the network access server and the off-load server are configured to send the session identifier to an AAA module, however, Hundscheidt does disclose these limitations (paragraphs 0010, 0012, 0028, and 0032)

Claim 19 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 19.

Regarding claim 20, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the system recited in Claim 19.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose the system further comprising an off-load server, the off-load server being coupled to receive the session identifier from the network access server, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraph 0017)

Claim 20 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 20.

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Regarding claim 21, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the system recited in Claim 19.

"RFC 2866" discloses the system further comprising the AAA module that is configured to perform authentication, the module being further configured to receive the session identifier from the network access server. (pages 8-9, section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically on page 8, "one RADIUS server receives and authentication (or accounting) request..." and on page 9, "A RADIUS server can function as both a forwarding server and a remote server...","1. The NAS sends an accounting-request to the forwarding server", "2. The forwarding server forwards the access request to the remote server.")

Regarding claim 26, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the system recited in claim 23.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose wherein the offload server is further configured to generate a start record, the off-load server being further configured to associates the start record with the session identifier; the off-load server is further configured to provide the start record to the AAA module, however, "RFC 2866" does disclose wherein a network access server generates a start record and associate the start record with the session identifier (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is

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configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...") and provides the start record to an AAA module (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet...and will send that to the RADIUS Accounting server...") and Hundscheidt discloses wherein the off-load server may include network access server functionality (paragraph 0032).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of these references since Hundscheidt suggests that the off-load server may include network access server functionality and "RFC 2866" teaches that a network access server generates a start record, associates the start record with the session identifier, and provides the start record to an AAA module as shown above. In view of these suggestions and teachings shown above, one of ordinary skill would have found it obvious to modify the reference so that the off-load server taught in Hundscheidt would have the network server functionality as suggested in Hundscheidt to generates a start record and associate the start record with the session identifier as taught in "RFC 2866".

Regarding claim 27, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the system recited in claim 23.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose wherein the offload server is further configured to generate a stop record, the off-load server being further configured to associate the stop record with the session identifier; the off-load server is further configured to provide the stop record to the AAA module, however, "RFC 2866" does disclose wherein a network access server generates a stop record and associates the stop record with the session identifier (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting Stop packet...") and provides the stop record to an AAA module (page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting Stop packet...It will send [the packet] to the RADIUS Accounting server...") and Hundscheidt discloses wherein the off-load server may include network access server functionality (paragraph 0032).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of these references since Hundscheidt suggests that the off-load server may include network access server functionality and "RFC 2866" teaches that a network access server generates a stop

record, associates the stop record with the session identifier, and provides the stop record to an AAA module as shown above. In view of these suggestions and teachings shown above, one of ordinary skill would have found it obvious to modify the reference so that the off-load server taught in Hundscheidt would have the network server functionality as suggested in Hundscheidt to generates a stop record and associate the stop record with the session identifier as taught in "RFC 2866".

Regarding claim 64, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method of claim 64.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein the off-load server provides one of Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP), Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP), Multipoint Point-to-Point Protocol, and PPP over Ethernet (PPPoE) service to the network access server, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraphs 0010, 0011, and 0032)

Claim 64 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 64.

Regarding claim 65, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method of claim 64.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising assigning the session identifier to a call and sending an access request to an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting

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server, wherein the access request comprises the session identifier and a Dialed Number Identification Service (DNIS) number associated with the call (section 5.13 "Table of Attributes", specifically "The following table provides a guide to which attributes may be found in Accounting-Request packets...Acct-Session-ID...Called-Station-ID"), and the assigning, the providing, and the sending are performed by a network access server (section 4.1 "Accounting-Request", specifically "Accounting-Request packets are sent from a client (typically a Network Access Server...) to a RADIUS accounting server...").

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose assigning the session identifier to a call prior to providing the session identifier to the off-load server, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraphs 0037 and 0038).

Claim 65 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 65.

Regarding claim 66, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method of claim 65.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose the method further comprising sending a second access request from the off-load server to the AAA server, wherein the second access request comprises the session identifier and username associated with

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the call, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraphs 0039 and 0040).

Claim 66 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 66.

Regarding claim 67, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method of claim 1.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose the method further comprising both the network access server and the off-load server sending the session identifier to an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) module, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraphs 0010, 0012, 0028, and 0032)

Claim 67 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 67.

Regarding claim 68, "RFC 2866" discloses a method comprising assigning a session identifier to a call detected by a network access server (section 4.1 "Accounting-Request", specifically "Accounting-Request packets are sent from a client (typically a Network Access Server...)...and convey information used to provide accounting for service provided to a user...; pages 15-16, section 5.5, "Acct-Session-Id", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-Id").

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"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose providing the session identifier from the network access server to an off-load server, wherein the off-load server provides one of Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP), Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP), Multipoint Point-to-Point Protocol, and PPP over Ethernet (PPPoE) service to the network access server, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraphs 0010-0012, 0017, 0028 and 0032)

Claim 68 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 68.

Regarding claim 69, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method of claim 68.

"RFC 2866" discloses the method further comprising sending an access request to an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) server, wherein the access request comprises the session identifier and a Dialed Number Identification Service (DNIS) number associated with the call (section 5.13 "Table of Attributes", specifically "The following table provides a guide to which attributes may be found in Accounting-Request packets...Acct-Session-ID...Called-Station-ID"), and the assigning, the providing, and the sending are performed by the network access server. (section 4.1 "Accounting-Request", specifically "Accounting-Request packets are sent from a client

(typically a Network Access Server...) to a RADIUS accounting server...")

Regarding claim 70, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method of claim 69.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose the method further comprising sending a second access request from the off-load server to the AAA server, wherein the second access request comprises the session identifier and a username associated with the call, however, Hundscheidt does disclose this limitation (paragraphs 0039 and 0040).

Claim 70 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 1 also apply to claim 70.

Claims 28, 30, and 33-36 are also rejected since these claims recite an apparatus that contain substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1, 3, and 6-9 respectively.

Claims 46, 48, and 51-54 are also rejected since these claims recite a computer program product that contain substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1, 3, and 6-9 respectively.

Claims 37, 39, 55, and 57 are also rejected since these claims recite an apparatus and a computer program product which contain substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 10 and 12 respectively.

Claims 40-44 and 58-62 are also rejected since these claims recite an apparatus and computer program product that contain substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 13-17.

Claims 23-24 are also rejected since these claims recite a system that contain substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 19 and 21 respectively.

1. Claims 2, 4, 11, 18, 22, 25, 29, 31, 38, 45, 47, 49-50, 56, and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt, and further in view of "Request for Comments 2867: RADIUS Accounting Modifications for Tunnel Protocol Support" ("RFC 2867").

Regarding claim 2, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose wherein providing the session identifier further comprises providing the session identifier as a non-required parameter in accordance with a tunnel protocol, however, Hundscheidt does disclose providing the session identifier further comprises providing the session identifier as a non-required parameter (paragraphs 0017 and 0018).

"RFC 2867" discloses providing the session identifier as a non-required parameter in accordance with a tunnel protocol

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(page 2, section 2, "Implementation Notes", specifically the paragraph beginning "In auditing, the User-Name...")

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of these references since "RFC 2867" discloses that inspecting a parameter list for the session identifier value enables tunneling protocols to be used (page 7, section 4.1, "Acct-Tunnel-Connection"). In view of these specific advantages and that the references are directed to using access servers and accounting servers to establish and account for network connections, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to combine these references and would have considered them to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor, which would lead one of ordinary skill to reasonably expect a successful combination of the teachings.

Regarding claim 4, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose determining whether the session identifier is provided as a non-required parameter in accordance with a tunnel protocol, however, Hundscheidt does disclose providing the session identifier further comprises providing the session identifier as a non-required parameter (paragraphs 0017 and 0018).

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"RFC 2867" does disclose determining whether the session identifier is provided as a non-required parameter in accordance with a tunnel protocol (page 2, section 2, "Implementation Notes", specifically the paragraph beginning "In auditing, the User-Name...")

Claim 4 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 2 also apply to claim 4.

Regarding claim 11, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 10.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose the method further comprising inspecting a parameter list for the session identifier value, however, "RFC 2867" does disclose this limitation (page 7, section 4.1, "Acct-Tunnel-Connection", specifically the paragraph denoted "String")

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of these references since "RFC 2867" discloses that inspecting a parameter list for the session identifier value enables tunneling protocols to be used (page 7, section 4.1, "Acct-Tunnel-Connection"). In view of these specific advantages and that the references are directed to using access servers and accounting servers to establish and account for network connections, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to

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combine these references and would have considered them to be analogous to one another based on their related fields of endeavor, which would lead one of ordinary skill to reasonably expect a successful combination of the teachings.

Regarding claim 18, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the method recited in Claim 17.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose providing the session identifier further comprises providing the session identifier as a non-required parameter in accordance with a tunnel protocol, however, "RFC 2867" does disclose this limitation (page 2, section 2, "Implementation Notes", specifically the paragraph beginning "In auditing, the User-Name...")

Claim 18 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 2 also apply to claim 18.

Regarding claim 22, "RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt disclose the system recited in Claim 19.

"RFC 2866" and Hundscheidt do not expressly disclose wherein the network access server is further configured to provide the session in a non-required parameter list according to a tunnel protocol, however, "RFC 2867" does disclose these limitations (page 2, section 2, "Implementation Notes",

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specifically the paragraph beginning "In auditing, the User-
Name...")

Claim 22 is rejected since the motivations regarding the
obviousness of claim 2 also apply to claim 22.

Claims 29 and 31 are also rejected since these claims
recite an apparatus that contain substantially the same
limitations as recited in claims 2 and 4 respectively.

Claims 47 and 49-50 are also rejected since these claims
recite a computer program product that contain substantially the
same limitations as recited in claims 2 and 4-5 respectively.

Claims 38 and 56 are also rejected since these claims
recite an apparatus and a computer program product which contain
substantially the same limitations as recited in claim 11
respectively.

Claims 45 and 63 are also rejected since this claim recites
an apparatus and a computer program product which contain
substantially the same limitations as recited in claim 18
respectively.

Claim 25 is also rejected since this claims recites a
system that contains substantially the same limitations as
recited in claim 22.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 26 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The prior art of record does not teach or suggest wherein an offload server configured to establish a network connection between the communication equipment operated by a user and a server operated by a network service provider generates a stop or start record and provides the record to an AAA module.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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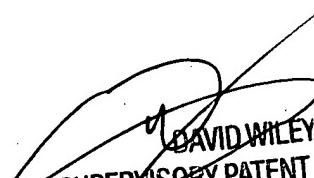
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5:30PM Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gcn



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